

2024 Spring Convention Committee meeting minutes, St. Louis, MO April 2, 2024

Members Glen Brewster (non-Board) Co-Chairs: Ami Comeford & Carie King

Board Members: Leigh Dillard, Amy Gates, Autumn Koors Foltz, Diane Steinberg, Kevin Stemmler

SKD: Joan Reeves, Leeann Rhea **CO:** Katie Mudd, Jeannine Szostak

SLs: Destiny Jones Eunice Tan, DeAni Blake-Britton, Kelly Taylor, Jessica McCole

At the Convention Committee meeting on Tuesday evening, we reviewed the planning and implementation processes so far, reviewed the events to come, and anticipated some adjustments that might need to be made over the next few days. In retrospect, the opening night events, the featured speakers, the student and faculty advisor workshops, and the various student presentations seemed to go very well, with many compliments on the collective work of the Convention Committee members, the Central Office staff, and the Board members.

Much of the committee time was spent on the ongoing plans of the Centennial Task Force, including for fund-raising, chapter projects, and other events throughout the Centennial Year. We also learned of the planning for the 2025 Sigma Tau Delta Convention in Pittsburgh, March 19-22, 2025, including the Convention Theme of "One of Ours," Willa Cather as the Spotlight Author, and discussions of potential selections for the Common Reader. Shannin Schroeder, Leigh Dillard, and Kevin Stemmler are the convention co-chairs.

Glen thanked everyone who worked on the 2024 Centennial Convention for well over a year, especially Co-Chairs Ami Comeford and Carie King, and Katie Mudd for taking over for Elfi Gabriel after her retirement.

Submitted by Glen Brewster

20203-2024 Convention Committee Charges & Foci Charges

1. To plan, coordinate, and publicize each annual international convention.
2. To make recommendations about site selection and decisions about budget, speakers, registration fees, the Common Reader, academic and anniversary awards, Convention awards, and any other matters related to the Convention.
3. To consider convention speakers for honorary membership in the Society.
4. To determine and implement best practices with regard to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Fall 2023-Sp 2024 SP Objective: 4 (c) *Enhance faculty members' professional development (at Convention and virtually) by giving them a chance for a scholarly presentation or webinar for student members, or a chance for a collaborative workshop or publication or service opportunity [Co-charge with Professional Development Task Force]*

Foci

Through Fall 2023

- Coordinating with the CO, update (as needed) the current schedule for Convention planning and implementation and revise the template for scheduling future convention activities.
 - Using the agreed-upon timeline, accept submissions; convene evaluators; and select papers, roundtables, and workshops for the Convention.

- Explore increasing the scope and/or access to career and professional development workshops as a component of the Convention in response to changing economic conditions and to the SP.

Spring through summer of 2024

- Consult with chair(s) for 2025 Convention, who (with input from the existing Convention Committee) should line up Common Reader and keynote speaker(s) as soon as possible.
- By agreed-upon timeline and in coordination with Student Leadership (SL) and members of other committees, create offerings for 2024 Convention sessions/panels to address interests of key populations, as determined by this committee or as suggested by other committees.
- As part of our work with diversity, equity, and inclusion, monitor the work of judges, ensuring fair and ethical consideration of all submissions.
- Select winners of Convention awards before Convention or, in the case of sponsored awards such as the Stemmler/Dennis LGBT& Awards, provide all eligible submissions to appropriate judges as per written guidelines for those awards.
- Share survey results with and brainstorm during a Convention post-mortem with incoming 2025 Convention chair and CO staff.